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R E M A R K S

The Office Action issued August 15, 2003 has been received and its contents have been carefully considered.

The applicant herein wishes to thank the Examiner in charge of this application, Mr. Benjamin Layno, for the courtesy and cooperation he extended applicant's undersigned counsel during the personal interview kindly granted on October 16, 2003. Prior to the interview, applicant's counsel transmitted a proposed Amendment to Mr. Layno which was the subject of discussion. Also discussed were the prior art references to Mero et al., Pinto et al., Pearson, Fernandez and Peppel. As a result, applicant's counsel agreed to further amend claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of claims 3 and 4.

Accordingly, claim 1 has been amended in the manner proposed prior to the interview and to add the subject matter of claims 3 and 4. Claims 3 and 4 have accordingly been canceled and claim 5 has been amended to depend from

claim 1 (instead of claim 4). Claims 15-20 have also been canceled as originally proposed.

Claim 1 now defines a method for playing a game which is based on trading cards that designate currently living athletes who are actively engaged in playing a sport. Collectors of these trading cards can register selected ones, thereby placing the persons designated by these selected cards "in play". The game thus progresses by determining current information about the actual performance of these sports figures and advancing the status of the game in accordance with the rules of the game and this current information.

Card collectors can thus field a "fantasy team" and improve their chances of winning by changing the selected cards, and thus the sports figures in play, which are registered with the game service provider.

The trading cards offered for use in the game are a limited set for any given sport (e.g., baseball). A given athlete (e.g., Barry Bonds) is designated by a group of cards within the set. At least some of the groups of cards have different numbers of cards than other groups of cards (e.g., Barry Bonds may appear on 200 cards, whereas Derek

Jeter may appear on 500 cards). Consequently, some cards are more scarce than others.

The specification has been amended to correspond with the invention now claimed. In particular, all reference to non-sports type trading cards has been deleted.

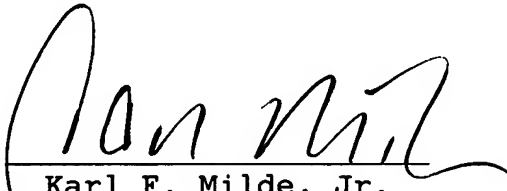
Furthermore, the name of Mark McGuire, who has now retired from baseball, has been replaced by Barry Bonds, who is still currently playing for the San Francisco Giants.

Support for applicant's amendments to claim 1, in the preamble as well as steps (d)-(f) may be found, inter alia, on page 22, second and third paragraphs, which discuss the provision of "current information about all the game players in play" and explain that "the outcome of the game thus depends upon how the actual (e.g., baseball) game players are performing in real life."

For the reasons given above and discussed at the personal interview held on October 16, 2002, this application is now believed to be in condition for immediate

allowance. A formal Notice of Allowance is accordingly
respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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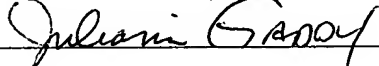
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By



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